

## DAVID EDWARD BYRD

BIOGRAPHY • Born in Cleveland, Tennessee (30 miles north of Chattanooga), David Edward Byrd was raised in Miami Beach, Florida, graduating from Miami Beach High School in 1959 • He attended Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, where he studied with many of the same teachers that taught Andy Warhol a generation earlier • He received a BFA in Painting & Design in 1964 and an MFA in Painting & Printmaking in 1966 • He moved to NYC where he helped establish Fantasy-Ultd., a multi-media collective in 1967 with his college roommate, Peter

Nevard, creating intricate multi-media presentations for clients such as Clairol, Yardley Cosmetics, Bill Blass, Ralph Lauren & Polo, Oscar de la Renta, Bloomingdales, Daytons of Minneapolis, Boussac of France, and Tenneco Chemicals among others • In early 1968, after being recommended by schoolmate, Josh White of “The Joshua Light Show”, he signed on as the exclusive poster & program designer for The Fillmore East • Between 1968 & 1973 he created posters for Jimi Hendrix; Jefferson Airplane; The Who & their rock opera Tommy; Traffic & Iron Butterfly; Ravi Shankar; and the Grateful Dead • In 1969, after

being recommended by Bill Graham, David created the commemorative poster for the legendary Woodstock Festival for John Roberts and Artie Lang, which ultimately was deemed pornographic by the Wallkill City Council and had to be replaced by Arnold Skolnick's iconic "bird on a guitar" poster • That same year David created the graphic for the equally legendary Rolling Stones 1969 November Tour • In 1973, NBC had him create a poster and ad for *"ELVIS: Live from Hawaii via Satellite"* • Also, in that same year he created a poster for the first dance concert in New York by *The Grateful Dead* • It was in

late 1969 that Mr. Byrd formed the Yellow Studio and

in 1970 began his career as a Broadway poster

designer with Lanford Wilson's *The Gingham Dog* •

Over the next 20 years David would do nearly 100

Broadway & Off-Broadway shows including

Sondheim's *Follies*; *Godspell*; *Jesus Christ*

*Superstar*; John Guare's *House of Blue Leaves*; *The*

*Magic Show*; *Sister Mary Ignatius*; *Little Shop of*

*Horrors*; *Steel Magnolias*; & *The Cocktail Hour* •

During this time he created posters for *The Lincoln*

*Center Repertory*; *The Chicago Film Festival*; *The*

*Buffalo Arena Stage*; *The Murray Louis Dance*

*Company; The Dance Theatre of Harlem; and the 50th Anniversary & Restoration of Radio City Music Hall as well as the legendary New York Art Deco Exposition held at Radio City • Also, during this time he was asked to do the poster for Beverly Sill's farewell performance at the Metropolitan Opera in Don Pasquale • Outside the theatre, Byrd & The Yellow Studio created book covers for most of the major publishers, album covers for most of the major music companies, and many advertising illustrations for Madison Avenue • In 1973 he received a Grammy Award for album design along with several other*

prominent illustrators for The Who's Opera-Version of *TOMMY* • In 1975, David did all the drawings and design for *The New York Times Manhattan Coloring Book* with text by Pulitzer-Prize winning architectural critic, Paul Goldberger • In that same year he created the iconic poster for John Schlesinger's film version of Nathaniel West's *Day of the Locust* • From 1970 to 1979 he taught Illustration, Drawing, & Airbrush Technique at both *Pratt Institute* and *The School of Visual Arts* • In 1980 he came to Los Angeles to work on the *Van Halen 'Fair Warning' World Tour* with tour designer Chip Monck and manager Noel Monk, both

of whom he had worked with at the Fillmore East and

Woodstock Festival • Deciding to stay in Los

Angeles, he did posters for *The Mark Taper Forum*,

*The Ahmansson Theater, The Doolittle Theatre, LA*

*Classic Theatre Works, The LA Stage Company, The*

*Pasadena Playhouse, The Long Beach Civic Light*

*Opera, Theatre 40* and many equity waiver venues •

From 1984 to 1986 he was Art Director of *The*

*Advocate*, taking it from a tabloid to a standard

magazine format • Beginning in 1978, David was a

regular contributor of covers for *TV Guide Magazine*,

creating portraits of Angela Lansbury in *Murder She*

*Wrote, Cagney and Lacey, Mary Tyler Moore, Battle Star Galactica, The Winter Olympics, Family Ties,*

Robert Conrad, and Prince Charles & Princess Diana among others • In 1985 in Los Angeles, David created Byrd / Beserra Studios with his partner, Jolino Beserra

- Together they designed a classic poster of the Pan Pacific Auditorium; all the art for the board game *Past Lives*; art for the Franklin Mint Special Edition of the board game, *Clue*; as well as backgrounds for an animated Sprint commercial • In 1991, David took the position of Senior Illustrator at Warner Bros. Creative Services, which he held till 2002 • Besides creating



illustrations, backgrounds and style guides for all the Looney Tunes & Hannah-Barbera characters, David got to create commemorative plates for The Franklin Mint, souvenir posters for the *Batman* series of films, style guides for feature films such as *Space Jam*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and television shows such as *Friends*, *The Cartoon Network* and *Scooby Doo* • His department was responsible for the Bugs Bunny Postage Stamp, the first cartoon character on a U.S. Postage Stamp • He created special signed pieces for The WB Studio Stores Galleries based on *The Masterpiece Series* style guide art that he painted in

1999 • David did a great deal of work on the style guides for two of the Harry Potter films: *Harry Potter & The Chamber of Secrets* and *Harry Potter & the Prisoner of Azkaban* •

Since leaving Warner Bros. in the fall of 2002, David has continued to work out of his basement studio in the 1928 Spanish home in the Silver Lake area of Los Angeles he shares with his partner of 29 years, Jolino Beserra • Jolino has become a prominent mosaic artist in Los Angeles, creating public mosaic works for Libraries, Residences and Parks • In 2005, David completed a large poster for The Main Street

Transportation Company at *Hong Kong Disneyland*,

as well as four years of posters for *City Center*

*Encores* musical series in Manhattan. The home that

David & Jolino shared for 12 years in the Hollywood

Hills with their dogs, Bernhard, Chloe, Joshua, Lucas,

& Jasper, was featured in both *Metropolitan Home*

and *Sunset Magazines* • Their home in the Silver

Lake section of Los Angeles is an art-work-in-

progress and appeared in “The Home Section” of the

LA Times in January of 2011 • They share it with their

six dogs • In August of 2007, David had his first

Retrospective Exhibition at The Ringling School of Art

+ Design in Sarasota, FL • On 11 June 2011 he opened “*THE BYRD SHOW: Forty Years of Art & Design*” at The Brand Library Art Galleries in Glendale, CA which ran for six weeks • He had a two-man show with Arnold Skolnick at the Museum at Bethel Woods in Bethel, NY, which is constructed on the site of the original Woodstock Festival, for which they both did posters. It was titled “*WOODSTOCK: A Tale of Two Posters*” • He is still creating posters for the Entertainment Industry: “*PRINCE & 3<sup>rd</sup> Eye Girl*” in 2013 & “*CROSBY STILLS & NASH*” in 2014